IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original abstract with the following:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Flat articles (5) are gathered into stacks (9) by conveying stacks in production successively along a gathering route (1) past feed stations and by adding one article to each stack in every feed station. The stacks (9) in production are conveyed on stack supports (2) with supporting surfaces (7). The supply direction of the articles has a component parallel to the stack conveyance direction and the supporting surfaces (7) are advantageously arranged not in parallel to the gathering route (1). The articles (5), each respectively gripped by a holding element (4) on one of their edges (5.1), are conveyed along a supply route (3) to the feed station. The supply route (3) traverses the gathering route (1) at the feed station. The articles (5) are inserted between successive stacks (9) or stack supports (2) and are held gripped from above with their leading edges (5.1). The gripped edge is released from being held by deactivation of the holding element (4), when it has reached the lower zone of the stack supports (2). The released article is then positioned on the upstream or downstream stack (9) or stack support (2) by the force of gravity and/or by its own inertia, and the holding element (4) is conveyed onwards in a downward direction.

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